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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1752



Attorney Docket No. 5576-125

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Kubota et al.
Serial No.: 09/851,274
Filed: May 8, 2001
For: *RESIST MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR PATTERN FORMATION*

Confirmation No.: 3436
Art Unit: 1752
Examiner: Lee, Sin J.

9/1/03

March 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

*OK to enter
4/14/03*

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed January 22, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and allowance of the present application. A marked-up version of the claims showing changes made to the claims is attached hereto and is entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

In the Claims:

Please replace Claim 9 with the following amended claim.

9. (Amended) A resist material according to claim 1 wherein said one or more surfactants having a fluorine substituent is selected from the group consisting of perfluoroalkylpolyoxyethylene ethanol, fluorinated alkyl ester, perfluoroalkylamine oxide, perfluoroalkylethylene oxide adduct, and fluorine-containing organosiloxane compounds.

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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the final Office Action (Final Action) mailed January 22, 2003. Claims 1-4 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 and 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,656 to Kawabe et al. with U.S. Patent No. 6,174,661 B1 to Chen et al. Claim 9 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendment to Claim 9 can be found in Claim 9 as originally presented and in the specification at page 8, lines 13-24, among other places.

The concerns raised by the Examiner are addressed below as set forth in the Final Action.